

Maldfeld & Purdy

Mikloiche finds historical artifacts in wall

By S. ROBERT POWELL

"As I was ripping out the lath and plaster in the kitchen," Tony Mikloiche told the NEWS last week, "I came across coins, documents and newspapers that must have been put in the partitions when the house was remodeled in 1907 or even before that time." The house referred to is the Mikloiche residence at 152 Canaan Street, which Tony and his wife, Pat, purchased in 1968 from Mrs. Ann Wengrzynek, Simpson.

Among the artifacts found by Mikloiche in the kitchen walls of his house are ten Indian Head pennies from the period 1898-1920, an advertising circular published by the Worcester Salt Company, 168 Duane Street, New York, and two different trade cards advertising the Carbondale firm of Maldfeld & Purdy, 32 North Main Street.

Advertised on one of the Maldfeld & Purdy trade cards is the "Brilliant Sunshine" circulating base burner and double heater; advertised on the other is the "Golden Sunshine" circulating base burner and double heater.

Printed on the back of the Brilliant Sunshine trade card is the following information about that heater: ".... It is up in grade, down in price -- nothing like it in fine design and elaborate ornamentation is offered for the

same money. Don't imagine now, that everything about it is slighted, -- quite the reverse, -- everything is first-class, and we give a written guarantee that it is just as represented. That's worth something, isn't it? The Brilliant Sunshine is a complete circulator of air -- that adds much to the healthfulness of apartments. Unlike the old fire-place, it warms the room all over."

Printed on the back of the Golden Sunshine trade card is the following information about that heater: "Exquisite in design, elegant in proportion, substantial in construction. As to convenience of operation, cleanliness, economy of fuel and heat generated, the Golden Sunshine scores more points of merit than any competitor. It lacks nothing."

In order to learn more about the Carbondale firm of Maldfeld & Purdy, we consulted the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century Carbondale city directories, but did not find the firm listed in 1890. In that year, however, we did find two Purdys listed as residents of 21 Park Street: Martin K. Purdy (clerk) and Sylvanus A. Purdy (Bell & Purdy).

Sylvanus A. Purdy and his son, Martin K. Purdy (residence 157 Park Street) are listed in the 1895-1896 directory as the principals in the firm of S.A. Purdy & Son, hardware, 34 North Main Street. In that same directory, are listed Darius G. Purdy (residence 159 Spring Street) and Kelsey D. Purdy (clerk, 34 North Main Street, residence 159 Spring Street).

By 1898-1899, Darius G. Purdy was in business with George Maldfeld (residence 76 Spring Street) and George Ammerman (Hawley). In the 1898-1899 city directory is the following listing: Maldfeld, Purdy & Co., varieties, hardware, plumbing, etc., 32 North Main Street. This firm is not listed in the 1900-1901 city directory, which suggests that the trade cards found by Mikloiche were placed in the walls of his house before 1900. In the 1900-1901 directory there is a listing for George Maldfeld, plumbing, heating and roofing, 34 North Main Street.

The firm of Maldfeld & Purdy appears to have been established in 1896-1897 or 1898, and it appears to have been dissolved by the turn of the nineteenth century. Can any of our readers tell us anything more about the firm of Maldfeld & Purdy? Does anyone own a Brilliant Sunshine or a Golden Sunshine circulating base burner and double heater.

In 1910, George Maldfeld is listed as a plumber at 32 1/2 Lincoln Avenue, and Walter Maldfeld is listed as an apprentice, with a residence at 76 Spring Street. Mary Maldfeld is also listed at 76 Spring Street in 1910, as is George Maldfeld's wife, Minnie. In the same directory, there are three Purdys listed with a residence at 21 Park Street: Lenora A., milliner; Sylvanus Purdy, carpenter, and his wife, Elizabeth.

In 1916, the George and J. Walter Maldfeld plumbing business is listed at North Church Street, corner of Canaan Street. That same ^{building} business is listed as the residence of Edith B. Maldfeld, stenographer; George and Minnie Maldfeld; and J. Walter and Margaret Maldfeld. By 1916, Sylvanus Purdy was dead. His widow, Elizabeth M., is listed in the 1916 directory as a resident at 21 Park Street. Also at 21 Park Street in 1916 is Stanley A. Purdy, draftsman.

In 1920, neither George nor J. Walter Maldfeld is listed in the city directory. George's wife, Minnie W. Maldfeld, however, is listed, as a plumber at North Church Street, corner of Canaan Street. At that same address in 1920 is Edith B. Maldfeld, stenographer, Tryollon Mfg. Co.

In 1923-1924, there are no Maldfelds listed in the city directory. There are two Purdys: Diana (widow of Mahlon D. Purdy), residence 66 Cortland Street, and George H. and Hanna Purdy, residence at 5 Drummond Avenue. George H. Purdy is there listed as a laborer.

These four paragraphs were cut from my original article by Rosemary Jeth. They were placed just before the first paragraph.